

career include serving as the Commanding Officer and Executive Officer of the Naval School of Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland. His strong leadership and dedication to excellence in education and training programs led to unprecedented technological advances in training materials and methodologies. For more than thirty years Captain Jack Caffrey has met every challenge and every assignment with enthusiasm and zeal. He has served as a positive role model for all Nurse Corps officers and his contributions will positively impact military nursing and health care for years to come.

Captain Gloria Caffrey has also distinguished herself as an outstanding Nurse Corps officer for more than thirty years and has excelled in numerous executive and clinical assignments. While her accomplishments have been many, highlights of her career include serving as the Head of the Nurse Corps Assignment Section in the Bureau of Naval Personnel. In this role, she expertly managed the assignment of 3,200 Nurse Corps officers to billets Navy-wide. Captain Gloria Caffrey was instrumental in increasing the number of Nurse Corps officers selected to Executive Medicine billets and was key in developing policy changes affecting Defense Officer Personnel Management Act grade relief and subspecialty reductions. Her superior leadership, vision, and dedication to duty has been an inspiration to all military nurses. Captain Gloria Caffrey leaves a lasting legacy of excellence.

Mr. President, more than fifty years ago, as I was recovering in a military hospital, I began a unique relationship with military nurses. The Caffreys embody what I know military nurses to be—strong, dedicated professional leaders, stepping to the forefront to serve their country and committed to caring for our Sailors, Marines, Airmen, Soldiers and family members during peacetime and at war. Captains Jack and Gloria Caffrey's many meritorious awards and decorations demonstrate their contributions in a tangible way, but it is the legacy they leave behind for the Navy Nurse Corps, the United States Navy and the Department of Defense of which we are most appreciative. It is with pride that I congratulate both Captain Jack Caffrey and Captain Gloria Caffrey on their outstanding careers of exemplary service.●

RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS WEEK

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, next Monday, May 1, 2000, is the first day of the first National Charter Schools Week in our nation's history, an event modeled after similar state level celebrations in Michigan and California. I feel that this is a momentous occasion which provides the nation with an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the hard work and many accomplishments of charter school teachers,

students, parents, administrators, and board members. Charter schools are a relatively recent phenomenon, but they have already established their mark on our nation's public education system.

Mr. President, I am extremely proud of the role the State of Michigan has played in the development of charter schools. Since 1993, when Michigan became the ninth state to grant citizens the freedom to establish charter schools, 173 public school academies, as they are called, have been founded. This places Michigan third in the nation in number of charter schools, behind just Arizona and California. In the fall of 1999, over 50,000 students attended these public school academies, up from 30,000 in 1998. More importantly, 91 percent of Michigan parents said their charter public school did a better job of educating their child, and eight of ten said charter schools are better at motivating students.

It is my feeling that these numbers are an indication of the many benefits charter public schools offer to communities. They provide parents and students with choice in education. They allow teachers a degree of flexibility that cannot be found in traditional public schools. Furthermore, they allow administrators and board members a certain amount of innovation in the founding, and also the funding, of schools, and in the decisions that are made in how they are to be run.

Mr. President, what charter schools do, first and foremost, is give teachers, students, parents, and administrators the ability to experiment, to tinker with the system in the hopes of improving it, and they do this while at the same time remaining accountable to local and state school boards. If our educational system is to improve, if we are truly going to strive to provide our nation's children with the education they deserve, I feel that charter schools are going to play a vital role in this process.

Indeed, Mr. President, in charter schools, we have a situation where everybody wins. Parents are able to send their children to a safe school environment where they will have more say in the entire process. Teachers are able to find new ways to do their own work, to work together with one another, and to work with members of the community. Administrators are lifted from many of the restraints of the traditional public school system. And the greatest benefactor of all this will be our nation's public school students. They are the ones who will benefit from the competition, the experimentation, and the innovation, because of the effect that these things will have on our entire public education system.

Mr. President, I have long been a supporter of charter schools and the many opportunities they offer. It was my pleasure last year to have secured \$925,000 in funding for Central Michigan University, which will use this money to establish a national Charter Schools

Development and Performance Institute. The grand opening of the institute is May 1, 2000, which also happens to be Michigan's Third Annual Charter School Day. The goal of the institute is to foster high-performing students and effectively run charter public schools by promoting development, achievement, and accountability. It will also disseminate information on and assist schools with the design and the implementation of charter school models.

Mr. President, I am extremely excited that the week of May 1-May 5, 2000, is being officially recognized as National Charter Schools Week. I am hopeful that this will help to make our nation more aware of charter schools, and the wonderful opportunities they offer to teachers, parents, and students throughout our nation. The sooner we fully realize the potential of charter schools, the sooner they will be able to fully reach this potential.●

DR. WILLIAM SLOANE COFFIN

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, May 6th marks the 75th birthday of Dr. William Sloane Coffin. Protestants for the Common Good is celebrating that day with a tribute to Dr. Coffin in Chicago, and I want to take a moment to call the Senate's attention to the life of this remarkable man.

I should begin by mentioning that since his retirement, Bill has lived in Vermont, and I am proud to represent a man whose dedication to peace, the environment, and social justice I have long admired.

William Sloane Coffin first came to the world's attention during the 18 years he served as the Chaplain of Yale University. As an outspoken and courageous supporter of civil rights and a founder of Clergy and Laity Concerned for Vietnam, he often sacrificed his own safety to ensure and protect the rights of others. He protested against segregation laws in the South, and with Dr. Benjamin Spock against the war in Vietnam. Anyone who was fortunate to hear him speak on these great moral issues of our time remembers his tremendous eloquence, passion and conviction. What many people may not know is that he also served his country as an infantry officer in Europe during the Second World War.

From New Haven, Dr. Coffin moved to New York City where he became the Senior Minister at Manhattan's Riverside Church. His soaring oratory inspired people from all walks of life.

Regularly challenging those who attended his services to seek justice in their own lives, Dr. Coffin set an example by consistently doing so himself. He founded the Church's well-known disarmament program, traveled throughout the world promoting peace and respect for human rights, and remains the President Emeritus of "SANE/FREEZE: Campaign for Global Security."

Mr. President, I have been fortunate not only to know of William Sloane

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Coffin but to know him personally. He has had an extraordinary impact on his community, his state, his country, and the world. His conscience is like a beacon, which challenges and guides us all.

Not long ago, I celebrated my 60th birthday. I hope that 15 years from now I will be able to look back at my own life, and look forward to the days ahead, with the sense of accomplishment, pride, and commitment to equality, justice and peace that William Sloane Coffin should feel on the occasion of his 75th birthday.

Happy birthday my friend.●

NATIONAL GRANGE WEEK

● Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the Minnesota members of the National Grange. This week is Grange Week, which celebrates the oldest U.S. rural community service, family-orientated organization with a special interest in agriculture. In recognition of its members in Minnesota, and across the United States, I want to take this time to reflect on the accomplishments of the National Grange during the past 133 years.

Organized in 1867, the National Grange assisted farmers who were trying to dig out of financial troubles that plagued them after the Civil War. Today, this organization continues to advance the best interests of agriculture and promote the family values that are rooted so deeply in rural America.

This commitment is easily seen in the Grange's involvement in many local service projects, such as organizing community response teams to cope with disasters, assisting in community development revitalization, volunteering at local schools, and promoting farm and home safety, along with other important activities.

In my home state of Minnesota, the State Grange has been influential in the development of many key projects and services since 1867. Around the turn of the century, the State Grange played a crucial role in helping farmers and people in rural areas get home delivery of their mail and take part in rural electrification projects. They also helped form the University of Minnesota School of Agriculture.

Mr. President, because its members understand the importance of the family farm and the communities they reside in, it is easy to see why the Grange has been so successful in its many endeavors. I am pleased to make this statement on behalf of the Minnesota Grange, and I wish them well and commend them for their many hours of volunteer service—service that is vital to all our communities.●

LARRY COOKE

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding Vermonter and good friend, Larry Cooke, who recently died after a long illness. Born and raised in Vermont,

Larry's love and devotion to his state and home town of Brattleboro framed all of his actions. We in Vermont are saddened by his loss but heartened by the legacy that he leaves behind.

Larry's dedication to public service began early in his life. As an eighth grader, he was elected president of his class and never looked back. Like many of an earlier generation, Larry was a self-made man, going to work for his father immediately after graduating from Brattleboro Union High School.

Demonstrating a devotion to his country that would extend throughout his life, Larry joined the Army and served in Germany before coming home to earn his real estate license. In this profession that he found his true calling, and it is here that he leaves his biggest footprint on the town of Brattleboro.

Larry devoted his career to affordable housing and environmentally friendly developments. His most important projects have included renovating historic buildings to their original condition while making them viable for modern day usage.

Larry was a consistent and important champion of affordable housing, taking the lead on the issue at the age of thirty as a candidate for Brattleboro town selectman. He then went on to serve on the Brattleboro Housing Authority for two decades, building and renovating affordable housing and apartments throughout the area.

As if his professional and private life did not take up enough of his time, Larry was active in every aspect of town affairs. He has served as president of the Kiwanis Club and as a corporator of Brattleboro Memorial Hospital. Among other activities too numerous to mention, Larry was a Mason, a member of the American Legion, the Shriners, and the Elks.

Before he died, this close friend of mine gave one last gift to his community. Larry donated a historic home in the center of Brattleboro to the town's historical society for use as its headquarters and museum. Although only a small part of Larry's life-long contribution to Brattleboro, the home will stand as a lasting monument to a man who devoted his life to the betterment of his community.

It has been said that we live in deeds, not years. While Larry died young, his accomplishments rival those of the oldest of men. He will be missed not only by Brattleboro and Vermont, but also by this country, where his life stands as a shining example for us all. My deepest condolences go out to Larry's devoted Wife, Kathleen, and his four daughters.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Evans, one of his secretaries.

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting a withdrawal and sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

[NOTE: The following message was signed by the President on Tuesday, April 25, 2000 and received in the Senate on Wednesday, April 26, 2000.]

REPORT OF THE VETO OF THE NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2000—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 101

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States; which was ordered to be spread upon the Journal.

To the Senate of the United States:

I am returning herewith without my approval S. 1287, the "Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2000."

The overriding goal of the Federal Government's high-level radioactive waste management policy is the establishment of a permanent, geologic repository. This policy not only addresses commercial spent nuclear fuel but also advances our non-proliferation efforts by providing an option for disposal of surplus plutonium from nuclear weapons stockpiles and an alternative to reprocessing. It supports our national defense by allowing continuing operation of our nuclear navy, and it is essential for the cleanup of the Department of Energy's nuclear weapons complex.

Since 1993, my Administration has been conducting a rigorous world-class scientific and technical program to evaluate the suitability of the Yucca Mountain, Nevada, site for use as a repository. The work being done at Yucca Mountain represents a significant scientific and technical undertaking, and public confidence in this first-of-a-kind effort is essential.

Unfortunately, the bill passed by the Congress will do nothing to advance the scientific program at Yucca Mountain or promote public confidence in the decision of whether or not to recommend the site for a repository in 2001. Instead, this bill could be a step backward in both respects. The bill would limit the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) authority to issue radiation standards that protect human health and the environment and would prohibit the issuance of EPA's final standards until June 2001. EPA's current intent is to issue final radiation standards this summer so that they will be in place well in advance of the Department of Energy's recommendation in 2001 on the suitability of the Yucca Mountain site.

There is no scientific reason to delay issuance of these final radiation standards beyond the last year of this Administration; in fact, waiting until